

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of recording video image comprising the steps of:  
    successively receiving video image from a surveillance  
5 camera system;  
    recording said video image; and  
    thinning said recorded video image in accordance with  
    passage of time of each of said recorded video image to output  
    said thinned video image and said recorded video image.  
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2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of  
    thinning comprising the step of:  
    thinning frames of said recorded video image for each  
    recording unit, wherein said step of thinning frames is further  
15 thinned at a later recording unit.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of  
    recording comprising the step of:  
    recurrently distributing and recording said video image of  
20 each recording unit of said video image to each of a plurality of  
    recording areas each said recording unit, said video image in one  
    of a plurality of said recording areas being thinned while said  
    one of a plurality of said recording areas is not used for  
    recording said video image.  
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4. A method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising step of:

recording said thinned video image with time relation with said video image recorded while said one of a plurality of said recording areas is used for recording said video image.

- 5 5. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

composing said video image and thinned video image in each of recording areas in accordance with passage of time of said video image and thinned video image.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating time data; and

attaching said time data to each frame of said video image

15 to be recorded with said video image.

7. A video image recording apparatus comprising:

a plurality of recording means for recording video image;

switching means for switching said recording means to

20 recurrently record said video image in each of said recording means each recording unit; and

thinning means for thinning said video image in one of said recording means while said one of said recording means is not used for recording said video image.

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8. A video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 7,

further comprising:

recording means for recording said thinned video image  
with time relation with said video image recorded while said one  
of a plurality of said recording means is used for recording said  
5 video image.

9. A video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8,  
further comprising:

composing means for composing said video image and  
10 thinned video image in each of recording areas in accordance  
with passage of time of said video image and thinned video  
image to output said composed video image.

10. A video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9,  
15 further comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing said composed video  
image.

11. A video image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 6,  
20 further comprising:

generating means for generating time data;

data attaching means for attaching said time data to each  
frame of said video image.